



(BY ΞΟΝΤΟΒΛΟΥ)

**The Holy Righteous Martyr Philothei of Athens
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on February 19.**

Saint Philothei was born in 1522 to an illustrious family. Against her will, she was married to a man who proved to be most cruel. When he died three years later, the Saint took up the monastic life and established a convent, in which she became a true mother to her disciples. Many women enslaved and abused by the Moslem Turks also ran to her for refuge. Because of this, the Turkish rulers became enraged and came to her convent, dragged her by force out of the church, and beat her cruelly. After a few days, she reposed, giving thanks to God for all things. This came to pass in the year 1589. She was renowned for her almsgiving, and with Saints Hierotheus and Dionysius is considered a patron of the city of Athens.

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Dismissal Hymn of the Righteous One
Plagal of First Tone. Let us worship the Word

THE famed city of Athens doth honour Philothei, * the righteous Martyr, whose relics it now revereth with joy; * for while living in sobriety and holiness, * she hath exchanged all earthly things * for the everlasting life through great contests as a Martyr; * and she entreateth the Saviour to grant His mercy unto all of us.

Kontakion of the Righteous One
Third Tone. On this day the Virgin

WE all honour Philothei * with jubilation of Spirit, * as this day we rev'rently * worship her ven'erable relics. * For she lived her whole life working kindness and mercy; * and the righteous one, receiving a martyr's ending, * is deemed worthy to entreat God * that all be granted * eternal life with the Saints.

VESPERS

For Lord, I have cried, *we chant the following Stichera:*

Fourth Tone. As one valiant

O ALL-LAUDABLE Philothei, * we extol thee in songs of praise * as a habitation of every excellence: * as an illustrious image of the virtues; the bond of love; * the renowned and good report, * as the crown fair with many gems; * the most tranquil port; * the delightful and gentle mouth of wisdom; the bright light among monastics; * the holy river of sympathy.

AS a brilliantly beaming star * in the darkness didst thou shine forth; * as a fragrant flower exhaling sweet perfume * in mystic meadows, O Philothei, didst thou blossom beautifully; * as the light and as the sun * thou in Athens didst brightly rise, * heating with thy warmth * and enlight'ning all them that had been darkened in the somber gloom of bondage; * wherefore, we honour thy memory.

THOU, in the rescue of captives and * visitation of sufferers, * also didst assemble a virgin's company; * against the Christ-fighting tyrant, thou didst wrestle triumphantly; * and with holy martyrdom, * thou didst seal thy good fight on earth; * hence O Philothei, * Christ, who loved thee, hast called thee to yonder rest in Heaven as a victor. * Entreat Him ceaselessly for us all.

Glory. *Plagal of First Tone*

UNTO God didst thou dedicate thyself and all that was thine, mind and soul and heart and body; for hearkening to the voice of the Gospel, thou didst forsake gold and honour and all things, and becamest a mother of orphans and paupers and widows. Wherefore, the Comforter came and dwelt in thy soul, and thou became a fragrant vessel of every virtue. Wherefore, O all-famed Mother Philothei, entreat Christ God that He preserve thy flock and save our souls.

OIKOS

LET every tongue be moved to laud all-lauded Philothei; every race, every age, young men and virgins, let us all crown Christ's Righteous Martyr with hymns. For she lawfully played the man and by her pains in asceticism and in martyrdom she cast down the tyrant foe. Wherefore, being adorned with a heavenly diadem, she asketh Christ that all be granted eternal life with the Saints.

SYNAXARON

On the nineteenth of this month we commemorate the Righteous Martyr Philothei of Athens.

Verses

When Philothei from things earthly was translated,
She ascended with joy to heavenly mansions.

On the nineteenth Philothei fulfilled her joy.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy and save us. Amen.



ODE EIGHT

Troparia

STANDING on the mount of godly vision, * and firm on the rock of faith in God the Trinity, * thou wast wholly unafraid * of the spoilers of Christ's flock, * from whom thou hiddest those in flight * at the peril of thy life, * and suffering thy death from their beatings, * thou hast been rewarded with glory in the heavens.

Glory. *Plagal of First Tone*

TODAY the city of Athens doth radiantly celebrate the memory of Saint Philothei. Come, therefore, all ye lovers of piety, let us honour the Righteous Martyr, and let us chant with reverence: Rejoice, thou who in thy life didst practice love, and who, like the Samaritan, didst pour oil and wine upon the wounds of the afflicted. Rejoice for when thou, like the Saviour, wast preserving in prayer, thou wast seized and carried off to be martyred for Him who died for our sakes. Rejoice, O all-famed Philothei, who abideth with the Angels; cease not to entreat the Saviour that thy flock be preserved in peace for ever and that our souls be saved.



SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW MARTYR